

ABSTRACT

A method for encrypting files that are to be transmitted across a computer network, such as files that are to be printed by a network printer. The method includes encrypting the file with a first device and transmitting the file from the first device, across the computer network, to a second device. The transferred, encrypted file is accompanied by a destination identifier and may also be accompanied by one or more of a source identifier and a flag. Upon receipt of the file, the second device decrypts the file. Decryption may be conditioned upon the recognition or validation of one or both of the source identifier and the flag, as well as upon separate entry of a decryption key into the second device. Apparatus and systems for effecting the method are also disclosed.

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